GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1378
ANSWERED ON:31.07.2001
FUNCTIONING OF DISTRICT RURAL DEVELOPMENT AGENCIES
BHERU LAL MEENA;SHIVAJI VITHALRAO KAMBLE

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether several central scheme for rural and social development could not be implemented as district authorities failed to utilise the funds in proper manner;

(b) if so, the details in this regard, district-wise;

(c) the steps taken by the Government for proper utilisation of funds meant for the rural development;

(d) whether reports regarding corruption and diversion of funds have been received by the Government;

(e) if so, the details thereof district-wise; and

(f) the action taken or proposed to be taken against the officers found guilty in this regard ?

Answer

MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU)

(a): No, Sir.

(b): Does not arise.
(c): The Ministry has incorporated the following provisions in the procedure for release of funds to ensure timely utilisation of funds by the States:

(i) Funds are released under different programmes to the States in two installments The second installment of funds is released only when the State/district has utilised 60% of the funds available with it under the programme.

(ii) Audit Reports and Utilisation Certificates are insisted upon while processing the proposals for release of funds.

(iii) The cuts are imposed on the funds to be released to the States if proposals for second installment are received late after December. If the proposals are received in January, 10% cut on the second installment is effected. If the proposals are received in February, the cut is 20% and if the proposals are received in March, the cut is 30% .

(iv) The carry over limit of funds from one year to another has been reduced from 25% during 1998-99 to 20% during 1999-2000. It has further been reduced to 15% w.e.f. 1.4.2000.

In addition, the utilisation is reviewed at the Ministry level on regular basis. The Minister (RD) himself has been visiting States and reviewing the progress of implementation. The Chief Ministers of the States are also impressed upon the need for more utilisation of funds and achieving faster progress. Besides, a four pronged strategy comprising creation of awareness about the schemes, transparency, people`s partnership and accountability-social audit has also been introduced.

(d): Yes, Sir.

(e): Irregularities in the implementation of Desert Development Programme (DDP) in Jaisalmer and Barmer District of Rajasthan and misutilisation of funds under Drought Prone Areas Programmes (DPAP) in Bokaro & Dhanbad District of Jharkhand State have also been brought to the notice of the Ministry during the current year.

(f): The complaints received in the Ministry regarding misutilisation/diversion of funds are immediately brought to the notice of the concerned State Government/UTs as remedial measures are to be taken by them.